



California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**PRESS RELEASE**

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CPUC CO-SPONSORS LOS ANGELES SMALL BUSINESS EXPO AND MATCHMAKING FAIR

SAN FRANCISCO, March 28, 2014 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) will co-sponsor a free Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair in Los Angeles on April 2, 2014, with opening comments by Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval. The event will help connect small businesses with companies such as AT&T, Comcast, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Sempra Energy Utilities, Southern California Edison (SCE), Verizon, water utilities, and many others in an effort to stimulate job growth in the state.

WHAT: L.A. Small Business Expo and Matchmaking Fair co-sponsored by the CPUC, Southern California Edison, and Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBEC) West. The event includes:

- One-on-one meetings with procurement specialist from major utilities, local government, and state agencies;
- Vendor/Resource Fair; and,
- Workshops on how to get state and utility contracts, small businesses going green, how to market businesses to public agencies and utility companies, and financing small businesses.

WHO:

- CPUC Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval
- Representatives from state/local agencies and the entities listed below



Exhibitors

- 1 County of Los Angeles
- 2 Business Source - City of Los Angeles
- 3 Los Angeles World Airports
- 4 Los Angeles Department of Water and Power
- 5 Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro)
- 6 CA Department of General Services
- 7 CA Department of Veterans Affairs
- 8 CA Department of Transportation
- 9 CA Department of Insurance
- 10 CA Employment Training Panel
- 11 CA Public Utilities Commission
- 12 US Department of Veterans Affairs
- 13 US Small Business Administration
- 14 Supplier Clearinghouse
- 15 Southern California Edison
- 16 Sempra Energy Utilities (SoCalGas & SDG&E)
- 17 PG&E
- 18 Southwest Gas
- 19 California Water Association
- 20 AT&T
- 21 Verizon
- 22 Comcast
- 23 Pacific Coast Regional Small Business Development Corp.
- 24 Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.
- 25 Preferred Bonding & Insurance Services
- 26 Merriwether & Williams Insurance Services
- 27 SCORE
- 28 LegalShield
- 29 Women's Business Enterprise Council (WBENC-West)
- 30 Southern Californian Minority Supplier Development Council
- 31 California Governor's Office of Business & Economic Development (Go-BIZ)
- 32 CA Disabled Veteran Business Alliance
- 33 The Elite SDVOB Network
- 34 Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
- 35 CalAsian Chamber of Commerce
- 36 The American Indian Chamber of Commerce/American Indian Chamber Education Fund Procurement Technical Assistance Center
- 37 Latin Business Association
- 38 Black Business Association
- 39 Asian Business Association of Los Angeles

Matchmaking Participants

- City of L.A. (Department of General Services)
Los Angeles World Airports
Southern California Edison
Sempra Energy Utilities (SoCalGas & SDG&E)
PG&E
California Water Service Company
Golden State Water Company
Park Water Company
San Gabriel Valley Water Company
Suburban Water Systems
Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
AT&T
Verizon
Comcast
CA Department of General Services
CA Department of Veterans Affairs



WHEN: Wednesday, April 2, 2014:

- 7:30 - 8:30 a.m.: Registration and Complimentary Continental Breakfast
- 8:30 - 9 a.m.: Opening Comments by Commissioner Sandoval, CPUC; and Joseph Alderete, Director, Supplier Diversity and Development, SCE
- 9 - 1:30 a.m.: Matchmaking Sessions and Vendor/Resource Fair
- 9 – 10 a.m.: “Connecting Small Businesses with State and Utility Contracts” workshop
- 10 – 11 a.m.: “Small Business Suppliers Go Green” workshop
- 11 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.: “Certified Now What – How to Market Your Business to Public Agencies and Utilities” workshop
- 12:30 – 1:30 p.m.: “Access to Capital: How Small Business Can Access Financing” workshop

WHERE: Skirball Cultural Center, 2701 N. Sepulveda Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90049

WHY: Learn how to obtain state and utility contracts and sell goods and services. Obtain valuable information on financial services, bonding/insurance, and pre-paid legal services. Obtain insights into ways to market your business and green business practices to grow your business. Learn how to access capital for your business.

The CPUC participates in small business events throughout the state to help connect small businesses to utilities and government procurement specialists. Through its Small Business Program the CPUC hopes to educate businesses on the benefits of becoming certified as a small business or woman-owned, minority owned, and/or disabled veteran-owned business.

California agencies are under Executive Order to conduct 25 percent of their procurement and contracts with small businesses and three percent with Disabled Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises. These small business programs complement the CPUC’s Supplier Diversity Program, which encourages participating utilities to increase procurement levels with women, minority, and disabled veteran-owned business enterprises.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information on the CPUC’s Small Business Program, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/smbus. To learn more about CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

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